

Message Text

SECRET POSS DUPE

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ACTION IO-10

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO USMISSION USUN PRIORITY

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S E C R E T CAIRO 9258

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, CB, EG

SUBJECT: KHMER AT 29TH UNGA: EGYPT

REF: USUN 5054

1. FYI: IT IS ALSO OUR UNDERSTANDING EGYPT DEL MAY NOW BE UNDER INSTRUCTIONS TO ABSENT ITSELF DURING KHMER VOTE. IF THIS IS CORRECT, IT WOULD BE LOGICAL THAT EGYPT DEL WOULD ABSTAIN ON PRIORITY QUESTION.

2. THIS POSITION DECIDED UPON AT HIGHEST LEVEL GOE AND IS, FRANKLY, A SOURCE OF SOME EMBARRASSMENT TO MFA. LATTER IS MINDFUL OF FACT THAT GOE RECOGNIZES GRUNK, HAS GRUNK DIPLOMATIC MISSION IN CAIRO, AND THAT CURRENT GRUNK AMBASSADOR IS ALSO GRUNK FOREIGN MINISTER. UPCOMING SADAT-BREZHNEV SUMMIT MAKES SITUATION NO EASIER FOR GOE, SINCE SOVIETS MAY BE EXPECTED TO TAX EGYPT FOR FAILURE SUPPORT KHMER RESOLUTION AS INITIALLY PLANNED. GOE IS ALSO CONSCIOUS SOVIETS, KHMER, POSSIBLY PRC AND OTHER COMMUNIST MISSIONS HERE WILL PROBABLY ATTRIBUTE REVERSAL OF GOE INITIAL POSITION ON KHMER RESOLUTION TO USG PRESSURE. THUS EGYPTDEL IS IN AWKWARD POSITION OF HAVING TO JUSTIFY

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TO ITS CRITICS ABSTENTION AND ABSENCE RE PRIORITY AND KHMER RESOLUTION BY ADDUCING SOME POSITIVE ARGUMENT THAT IT IS NOT TURNING

ITS BACK ON GRUNK BUT IS CONSTRUCTIVELY SEEKING FURTHER
LATTER'S INTEREST.

3. IN THIS CONTEXT, SINCE ASEAN RESOLUTION IS SOLE OTHER
PERTINENT RESOLUTION, EGYPTDEL IS NOW APPARENTLY EXPLORING
WHETHER SUPPORT FOR ASEAN COULD BE PROJECTED AS NOT
INCONSISTENT WITH ITS RECOGNITION OF GRUNK. WE READ
SHAFEI'S QUERY OF OHTAKA IN THIS LIGHT. GOE
ABSTENTION OR ABSENCE ON ASEAN RESOLUTION COULD
THEORETICALLY BE ARGUED AS EVEN-HANDED, BUT WOULD NOT
VITIATE GOE'S EMBARRASSMENT WITH GRUNK AND ITS
SUPPORTERS. HOWEVER, IN ABSENCE JUSTIFICATORY ARGUMENT
FOR ASEAN RESOLUTION, EGYPTDEL MAY BE FORCED INTO SUCH
TOTAL LACK OF ACTION. END FYI.

4. WE BELIEVE IT MIGHT BE SUGGESTED TO OHTAKA THAT HE
REMIND SHAFEI THAT GOE, DESPITE ITS RECOGNITION OF GRUNK,
HAS ALWAYS ENDORSED CONCEPT OF A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT BEING
REACHED BY INDIGENOUS PARTIES CONCERNED AND HAS BEEN
OPPOSED TO OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE. ASEAN RESOLUTION, BY
URGING INDIGENOUS PARTIES DIRECTLY CONCERNED TO ENGAGE IN
TALKS, FITS THIS CRITERIA. TO AVOID ANY FURTHER POLARIZATION
ANOTHER NEGOTIATING EFFORT DESERVES TO BE ENCOURAGED AIMED AT
FINDING A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT. LATTER IS NOT INIMICAL TO
GRUNK'S INTERESTS AND, IN CONTEXT GRUNK'S CLAIMS TO
WIDESPREAD CAMBODIAN SUPPORT, IT OUGHT TO WELCOME
SUCH TALKS. EGYPTDEL DOUBTLESS ALREADY KNOWS, BUT JAPANESE
COULD POINT OUT THAT SEVERAL MUSLIM OR PARTLY MUSLIM STATES
E.G., INDONESIA AND MALAYSIA, ARE CO-SPONSORS. IT WOULD
OF COURSE, BE ESPECIALLY HELPFUL IF ANY OTHER ARAB STATES
HAVE INDICATED SUPPORT FOR ASEAN RESOLUTION AND OHTAKA
COULD REMIND SHAFEI OF THIS. THERE ARE CLEARLY NO OVER-
WHELMING ARGUMENTS IN FAVOR ASEAN RESOLUTION WHICH WILL
HELP EGYPTDEL IN ITS PRESENT AWKWARD POSITION, BUT WITH A BIT
OF DEFTNESS ON PART EGYPTDEL FOREGOING POINTS MIGHT JUST BE
USEFUL IN DEFENDING ITS PROPOSED ACTIONS RE KHMER RESOLUTION.
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